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VISITORS

Lloyd Fainberg (USAID/G) arrives October 5 for review of unaccompanied children program, hosted by UNICEF.

Bob Kramer (FFP) and David Garms (FODAC) on visit with WFP/Rome hosted by WFP/Rwanda, October 7-9.

GENERAL

-- FOR DART/Nairobi: The ICRC is having major strategy meetings on Burundi, Rwanda, Zaire in the coming week (s?). You might check with our friends there to see if you can get a read out at some point.

-- There have been dramatic increase in prison populations in Kigali and Gitarama over the last weeks. According to various reports the prison population in Kigali has risen to over 700, double its previous population - in just 2 weeks. The Butare population has experienced an even greater increase from around 250 to over 1,000. Much of these increases are the likely result of RPF screening of returning displaced populations. WFP will begin providing food to the two prisons in Kigali and Gitarama which have been recently transferred from the authority of the Ministry of Defense to the Ministry of Justice. As judicial process delays continue, prison conditions are likely to deteriorate as the government has no funds to properly care for prisoners. ICRC as part of its mandate is monitoring the situation.

-- DART called on the Ministry of Rehabilitation liaison officer for humanitarian organizations on October 7 for a general discussion of emergency activities including DART structure and activities. The Ministry of Rehabilitation is the ministry responsible for the coordination of all humanitarian activities in the country and is the ministry to which NGOs must apply for approval to work as well as for registration of programs and staff. The rep expressed the major concern of the ministry over the lack of quick solutions on property issues: the large number of returned refugees who are occupying houses that belong to refugees in Ngara, Goma and Bukavu are a major impediment to repatriation, the representative said. Further he averred that if there were to be sudden repatriation now the situation would be explosive (hinting that the government was secretly relieved that refugees were not returning now). The Minister of Rehabilitation is currently on a tournee to look at possible resettlement sites for the returnees, but any program will require significant funding from the donor community.

TRANSPORTATION

There is now a liaison person at the Gatuna border post and another will be established at Rusumo in order facilitate border crossing of relief supplies. The Customs office has not yet responded to a

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request for a list of procedures in order to streamline customs clearance and remove some of the delays in receiving humanitarian goods.

IOM is expecting to receive 25 new trucks October 6. UNAMIR will continue to make its trucks available for relief community transport use as long as they are not needed for UNAMIR purposes. Since the Zambians have not yet arrived, there will continue to be trucks available in the near future. The TCU will ask the Ministry of Transportation to look into the numbers of commercial trucks available, eventually establishing a rate per ton to encourage NGO use of local transport, thereby helping the economy.

RETURN AND REPATRIATION PROGRAMS

Despite earlier accounts, people are continuing to return from Cyanguu and Gisenyi, in large enough numbers to inundate the reception sites. 1318 people returned from Cyanguu to Kizi during one day last week, which is not used to processing more than 500 in one day (note previous sitrep). Kigali also had problems when it received too many people too late in the day. A total of 8157 people were transported by UNHCR vehicles the week of September 26-October 2. Operation Homeward will recommence October 6 with over 800 people registered to return to Butare Prefecture from Gikongoro displaced camps.

The Ministry of Rehabilitation met with members of the relief community to discuss the return programs. The agencies agreed to provide a status update of the reception facilities prior to transport. In exchange, the Ministry will have a representative on each of the convoys transporting returnees. This will preclude the need to stop, unload and search each passenger at the checkpoints and therefore speed up the process.

The Minister of Rehabilitation will meet with the Ministers of Interior and Defense to establish transit camps for the "old case load" returnees that are arriving in Kigali. They intend to set up camps outside of the city to discourage using Kigali as a destination site for returnees who otherwise lack permanent housing. These actions on the part of the Government, were taken by the international community as positive moves to become more involved in the return process.

FOOD

-- Gikongoro

CARE continues to provide a full basket ration (350 gm cereals, 120 gm beans, and 20 gm oil or 1850 KCal) to an increased beneficiary population of 95,000, up from 85,000 in August. There has been no information from CARE on the reason for the increase in the population, but the majority of the increase in

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population has occurred in Kaduha.

AICF is also providing the same full basket to a revised distribution in Cyanika. Although the beneficiary population has decreased in Cyanika from 80,000 to 40,000, another program for the displaced of Gikongoro town have been added to their distribution program. The beneficiaries in their new Gikongoro displaced program totals approximately 10,000. AICF also continues to provide supplemental feeding programs with biscuits in Kibeho.

SCF continues with their dry ration feeding programs for children under five using CSB and biscuits to an approximate beneficiary population of 15,000 children in five of the South Gikongoro camps.

In addition, WFP has provided:

-- MSF with CSB, UNIMIX and biscuits for their dry ration feeding programs for malnourished children under five in Kaduha and Rukondo.

-- GOAL with CSB, maize meal, beans and oil for the therapeutic feeding program for approximately 300 children and mothers in the Ndagoo camp. A three month allocation for this program has been provided in September.

-- Concern and UNHCR with maize meal, beans and oil for their way stations in Gikongoro and Butare which provide meals for overnight returnees and a ten day ration for their final destination. The transit population is approximately 1,800 per week.

-- World Vision with maize meal for their unaccompanied children center in Gikongoro. A three month allocation was provided in September.

-- Butare

In coordination with ICRC and MSF/Belgium, WFP Butare is currently distributing a ration to supplement the current cultivation season. ICRC and MSF are distributing seeds and tools, while WFP is supplying the food as protection against the seeds being used as a food source during this important planting season. The response in the communes has been positive and distributions have been going smoothly with only minor logistical problems with the rain affected roads. The total beneficiary population to be assisted is approximately 350,000.

The census initiated by the WFP/ICRC assessment team which began in mid-September, has yet to be completed as sectors from various communes have failed to complete their registration for the distribution. This distribution will be a one time ration of 3.3 kg. cereals and 300 gm oil per person. WFP is continually monitoring the food security situation and movement of the

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returnees in Butare and, if necessary, will revert to a general ration for some of the more destitute communes in the future.

WFP continues to supply food to the displaced camps in the Butare town area with CARITAS as the implementing partner. The beneficiary population of displaced camps varies with the movement of displaced as they return to their homes and, on average, WFP is providing a half ration to approximately 18,000 people. In addition to the displaced camps, WFP provides a half ration on an "as needed basis" to other CARITAS programs representing another 80,000 beneficiaries.

WFP provides UNHCR and Concern with commodities for their way stations which provide meals for overnight returnees in Butare and a ten day ration to take to their final destination. WFP was formally servicing approximately 1,800 a week but the population movements have slowed down considerably with the news of retaliation killings in the southeast.

WFP is assisting IMC in Butare with a Food for Work Program for their workers in their medical projects.

BUKAVU

DART made rapid visit to Bukavu with DATT and visiting State rep over weekend of October 1.

-- In Cyangugu, information on what is happening in Bukavu is scarce. Greater information sharing between UN agencies and NGOs on both sides of the border is needed to ensure program coherence as well as for security. The Ethiopian contingent is evident camped along the roads and patrolling the town. Their lack of facility with either English or French clearly hampers their ability to relate to the relief community. DART members Maynard and Marlett will make detailed trip to Cyangugu on October 11.

-- There are over 280,000 refugees in 28 sites around Bukavu. UNHCR intends to reduce the number of sites by up to half in order to ease the logistics strain of separate deliveries to multiple sites. UNHCR told DART that with multiple sites they have had much less intimidation of refugees than in the larger camps in Goma and Ngara. UNHCR officers admitted that by consolidating sites they could be reversing that situation and possibly creating problems that exist in Goma and Ngara. However, it is generally believed that the refugee population in Bukavu is more moderate than those in Goma and Ngara so perhaps this is an unfounded fear.

-- Sectoral assistance to the camps appears to be well in hand with major organizations present. However new sites are perched precariously on eroded hillsides presenting not only major environmental threats, but also potential landslides onto the main road south from Bukavu.

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-- NGOs are concerned by UNHCR's lack of leadership and coordination of the overall effort in Bukavu. NGOs are also fearful of the growing insecurity in the area which is exacerbated by events in Goma and the tensions between Zairians and refugees. NGOs feel they are potential victims of refugee attacks should anything go wrong in the camps because UNHCR's presence is so inadequate. NGOs told visiting US delegation as well as UNAMIR delegation that they would consider pulling out of Bukavu unless some positive efforts are made to make the working environment more secure.

-- Of major interest to the delegation was whether the FAR has moved its troops to areas around Bukavu. It did not appear from the group's brief travels that there was any significant build up around Bukavu. NGOs admitted that there are large concentrations of military in some camps outside of Bukavu, notably Chimunga where CARE works.

LIVESTOCK

DAIT Representatives Buddy Shanks and Melanie Marlett travelled with two FAO veterinarians, a Rwanda Ministry of Agriculture veterinarian, and a representative of Action Nord Sud through the Akagera National Park to the Uganda border in the Northeast sector of Rwanda. The majority of the herds, approximately 60 to 125 head each, were observed from the main road within the boundaries of the National Park and outside the national park on the road to Nyagatare (about 40 kilometers southwest of Kagitumba). At Kagitumba, the Ugandan border crossing, the number of cattle crossing the official border checkpoint as of October 5, was approximately 109,000. One month ago, approximately 1,000 head crossed each day, today the Kagitumba figures are about 340 head a day. However, the immigration official recognized that this number is much less than the number actually crossing, since many people are bringing their cattle across the border at other, unofficial points. The veterinarian in Nyagatare estimated that the total figure is between 180,000-200,000 head at the two official border crossings. Although Action Nord Sud had reported an estimated 10,000 small ruminants (sheep/goats) in the northeast, the veterinarian said there are few small ruminants (especially goats) because of the limited grazing capacity. He also stated that herdsman cannot claim land because a national policy has yet to be issued.

According to border officials, the Government of Uganda has not restricted the movement of herders wishing to move their cattle across the border (this was reported in Action Nord Sud's grant proposal). The primary deterrent for Rwandans moving their cattle from Uganda into Rwanda is fear of disease. An estimated fifteen percent of the cattle die during the long journey (herdsmen said it takes an average of one month to make the journey). However, it was evident that this threat has not inhibited herdsman from moving their herds to Rwanda. The major concern of the FAO veterinarians is the carrying capacity of the

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land (water and foraging) in Northeast Rwanda and the increased chances of diseases (primarily contagious pleuropneumonia and rinderpest ... hoof and mouth to a lesser extent) spreading from such large numbers to uncontaminated herds arriving in southern Rwanda. The Rwandan veterinarian estimated that about 50,000 cattle are the optimum number for the carrying capacity of the land in the northeast region. (The delegation observed a cow being slaughtered with very low body fat, indicating that the cattle in the area are severely underweight and generally parasitic...no lesions were present indicating pleuropneumonia nor were there signs of hoof and mouth disease.) Each of the herdsmen we talked with were aware of rinderpest, contagious pleuropneumonia and hoof and mouth disease (and landmines). There is also the fear (not necessarily a major concern expressed by the Rwandan officials and certainly not by the herdsmen) that these cattle will push wildlife to the eastern limits of the National Park and into Tanzania and will also cause competition for land that would normally be used for growing crops. Environmental degradation will become a concern if such large numbers remain in this limited area.

There have been cases of hoof and mouth disease in the region. Although this disease has a fairly low mortality rate (between 10-15%), cattle that contract the disease are dying because they are already in a weakened state due to lack of food and water and the long trek from Uganda. Pleuropneumonia is a primary concern but has not yet emerged in significant numbers. Signs or reports of rinderpest in Rwanda have not been documented. Many of the cattle previously in Uganda were vaccinated for pleuropneumonia and rinderpest, but not many of the cattle we observed had notched ears indicating they had been a part of the Ugandan vaccination programs. Some of the herdsmen in Rwanda spray against tse-tse flies and ticks, but the majority cannot afford to.

Immediate needs in the region include an organized vaccination campaign against contagious pleuropneumonia, rinderpest and creation of markets for the sale of cattle. Evidently, many of the farmers are willing to sell their cattle because they would rather have the money now than face the possibility of losing their cattle to disease or starvation. Cattle are presently selling for 25,000 - 30,000 Frw a head (about 200 Frw = \$). The veterinarian in Nyagatare and his staff believe there will be a high participation among herdsmen to have their cattle vaccinated against pleuropneumonia and rinderpest. When asked if any of the herds are returning to Uganda the veterinarian said no. (Note: The veterinarian from FAO/Rome stated that FAO would be more than willing to provide additional pleuropneumonia/rinderpest vaccine for the upcoming vaccination program funded by DART and administered by ANS and the Ministry of Agriculture. He thought that 200,000 doses might fall short of the amount needed if cattle from Uganda continue to migrate south to Rwanda). The FAO veterinarians also discussed the necessity of placing trained veterinary personnel at

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slaughterhouses in order to help spot and prevent the introduction or re-introduction of rinderpest and hoof and mouth disease, the two most important epizootic diseases in the world.

Land mines are still a problem in the region and are killing cattle more frequently than people. Some cattle are also still being killed by lions coming from the national park.

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